

RECEIVED
MAY 23 2003
GROUP 1700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **NISHIUCHI, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 1742

Serial No.: 09/977,363

Examiner: **OLTMANS, Andrew L.**

Filed: **October 16, 2001**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 4158

For: **RARE EARTH METAL-BASED PERMANENT MAGNET, AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME**

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 21, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated **January 23, 2003** please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 9 and 14 as follows:

9. (Twice Amended) A process for producing a rare earth metal-based permanent magnet, comprising the step of forming a metal oxide film containing carbon on the surface of a magnet by a sol-gel coating process using a sol solution into which a metal compound as the metal oxide film forming source is incorporated in an amount of from 0.1 wt % to 20wt % in terms of the metal oxide.